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2d Session

} HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES }

REPORT  
No. 2370

## MARIA GRAZIA MARANTO

JULY 1, 1952.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. GRAHAM, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7645]

The Committee on the Judiciary to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7645) for the relief of Maria Grazia Maranto, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of this bill is to waive one exclusion clause of our immigration laws in behalf of the sister of United States citizen.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Fallon, the author of the bill, and Mr. Charles P. Maranto, a brother of the beneficiary of this legislation, appeared before a subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary and recommended enactment of this measure.

Mr. Fallon submitted the following documents which contain the pertinent facts in this case:

SUPREME BENCH OF BALTIMORE CITY,  
Baltimore, Md., March 27, 1952.

HON. GEORGE FALLON,  
United States Congressman from Maryland,  
House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FALLON: I enclose a typed copy of the letter which I sent to Senator O'Connor on May 1, 1951. The facts, I understand, are the same now as they were then. At that time Senator O'Connor tried to help Mr. Charles P. Maranto, but was unsuccessful.

Anything you can do to help Mr. Maranto in regard to his deaf sister will be personally appreciated both by him and his family and by me.

Sincerely,

CHAS. E. MOYLAN.

SUPREME BENCH OF BALTIMORE CITY,

Baltimore, Md., May 1, 1951.

Re Charles P. Maranto.

Hon. HERBERT R. O'CONOR,

*United States Senator from Maryland,**Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR O'CONOR: Mr. Maranto is very highly regarded in my neighborhood—Waverly—where, for many years, he has operated successfully his own barber shop and been a good citizen generally. He is eager to have his deaf sister, Miss Maria Grazia Maranto, who is more than 50 years of age, come to Baltimore from Italy to live with him. She is a dressmaker, but Mr. Maranto is able and willing to provide for her and to furnish her the requisite transportation to this country.

As the enclosed copy of letter will indicate, his sister's deafness has complicated the matter of her admission. Mr. Maranto has explained to me that at the time his sister was a child of school age, there were no schools for the deaf in and around Palermo or that part of Italy. While normally, therefore, illiteracy is one criterion on which to judge a person, in this particular case it would be a very faulty one, because many alert, keen, thrifty, very intelligent deaf persons—who develop their own unorthodox and unconventional means of communication, through necessity—would technically be unable to use the normal and conventional reading methods.

My own mother and father were deaf mutes. I was one of a commission here in Maryland, whose studies resulted in the deaf being able to drive automobiles (which they have done for a score of years with relatively few accidents); and at present, as you know, I am president of the board of visitors of the Maryland State School for the Deaf, the alma mater of my parents. Having spent my entire life largely among deaf people, and having made a real study of this group, I sincerely believe that the inability of Miss Maranto to find a school for the deaf when she was a child, in Palermo, and her inability, therefore, through no fault of her own, to communicate in the usual medium, should not mitigate against her, by a highly technical application of the law, rather than the broad spirit thereof. As Lord Coke so aptly said: "The reason for the law is the life of the law."

I can hardly believe the law was designed in its literacy test to bar worthy and deserving deaf folks, who have had to develop their own means of communication with friends and neighbors—because the educational facilities now available were not provided so readily a few decades ago.

Appreciating anything you can do in this instance, I am,

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES E. MOYLAN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, D. C., September 21, 1951.

Hon. GEORGE H. FALLON,  
*House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. FALLON: Reference is made to your letter of September 4, 1951, and its enclosure, and to previous correspondence concerning the case of Miss Maria Grazia Maranto, to whom the American consulate general at Palermo, Italy, has refused to issue an immigration visa on the ground that she is unable to read.

Section 3 of the Immigration Act of February 5, 1917, as amended, provides that with certain exceptions, all aliens over 16 years of age, physically capable of reading, who cannot read English, or some other language or dialect, are excludable from admission into the United States. Furthermore, as the responsible consular officer has stated in his letter of March 21, 1951, to the alien's brother Mr. Charles P. Maranto, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, has held that although a person physically incapable of reading is exempt from the foregoing literacy clause of the above-cited provision of law a deaf mute does not come within this exemption.

As Miss Maranto's case does not fall within any of the exceptions provided in the above-mentioned literacy clause, and as section 2 (f) of the Immigration Act of 1924, as amended, provides that no immigration visa shall be issued to an immigrant if it appears to the consular officer that the immigrant is inadmissible into the United States, the consular officer to whom Miss Maranto applied had no choice other than to refuse to issue the visa.

It is regretted that there appears to be no way under existing immigration laws and regulations whereby Miss Maranto may be admitted into the United States for permanent residence.

Sincerely yours,

ELIOT B. COULTER,  
*Assistant Chief, Visa Division.*

THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,  
*Palermo, Italy, March 21, 1951.*

Mr. CHARLES P. MARANTO,  
*4009 The Alameda, Baltimore, Md.*

SIR: Reference is made to your letter of March 12, 1951, inquiring as the status of the visa case of your sister, Miss Maria Grazia Maranto.

Miss Maranto applied for a nonpreference Italian quota immigration visa at the consulate general on February 28, 1951. It was revealed at that time that she is unable to read in Italian or in any other language. It was further revealed that she is a deaf-mute.

Section 3 of the Immigration Act of February 5, 1917, provides for the exclusion, with certain exceptions, from the United States of those aliens who are unable to read in some language or dialect.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has held that deaf-mutes are not comprehended within the exceptions to the literacy test.

Because Miss Maranto is unable to read in any language, the consulate general may not issue her an immigration visa.

The Trans-World Airlines ticket enclosed in your letter is returned herewith.

Very truly yours,

DAVID C. BERGER,  
*American Consul General.*

Enclosure: TWA ticket.

Original forwarded Hon. H. J. L'Heureux, Chief, Visa Division, State Department, Washington, D. C.

Upon consideration of all the facts in this case, the committee is of the opinion that H. R. 7645 should be enacted and accordingly recommends that the bill do pass.

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It is reported that the majority of the population of the country is of Italian descent, and that the Italian language is the most widely spoken. The Italian population is estimated to be about 80 per cent of the total population.

The Italian Republic of the United States of America

The Italian Republic of the United States of America is a country of about 100,000 square miles, situated in the north-western part of the United States. It is bounded on the north by the Canadian Republic, on the east by the United States, and on the south by the Mexican Republic. The Italian Republic is a country of great natural beauty, with a climate that is generally mild and pleasant. It is a country of great agricultural wealth, and its principal products are wheat, corn, and cotton. It is also a country of great industrial wealth, and its principal industries are the textile, the food, and the mining industries. The Italian Republic is a country of great political and social progress, and it is one of the most advanced countries in the world.

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